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I.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM AT CAIRO DESCRIBED, BY R. R. MADDEN, IN HIS TRAVELS IN EGYPT.

ONE of the first places which I visited in Cairo, was the Lunatic Asylum. Mr. Salt's janissary accompanied me, and I believe no eye hath ever witnessed, elsewhere, such a melancholy spectacle as this shocking place affords. The keeper made repeated objections to my admission: he said no Frank had ever been suffered to go in; but the name of the *hakkim* of the English Consul, and half a dozen piastres to boot, removed his scruples. I was led from one passage to another; door after door was unbarred; the keeper armed himself with a *courbash* (a whip made of one solid thong of the hide of the hippopotamus); and we at length arrived at an open court, round which the dungeons of the lunatics were situated. Some who were not violent were walking unfettered, but the poor wretches within were chained by the neck to the bars of the grated windows. The keeper went round as he would do in a menagerie of wild beasts, rattling the chain at the windows to rouse the inmates, and dragging them by it when they were tardy of approaching.

One madman, who spat at me as I passed his cell, I saw the

keeper pull by the chain and knock his face against the bars, till the blood issued from his nose. I forced him to desist. Each of them, as we passed, called out for food: I inquired about their allowance, and, to my horror, I heard there was none except what charitable people were pleased to afford from day to day. It was now noon, and they had had nothing for the last eighteen hours.

Two well dressed Turkish women brought in, while I was there, a large watermelon and two cakes of bread; these were broken into pieces, and thrown to the famished creatures. I never saw "Nature subdued to such a lowliness:" they devoured what they got like hungry tigers, some of them thrusting their tongues through the bars, others screaming for more bread. I sent out for a few piastres' worth of bread, dates, and sour milk (*youart*); its arrival was hailed with such a yell of ecstasy as pierced the very soul. I thought they would have torn down the iron bars to get at the provisions; and, in spite of the *courbash*, their eagerness to get their portions rendered it a difficult matter to get our hands out of their clutches.

It was humiliating to humanity to see these ravenous poor wretches tearing their food with their filthy fingers: some of their nails were so long as to resemble the talons of hawks. And such can

be the condition of the "man, so noble in reason, so infinite in faculties, in form and moving so express and admirable, in action so like an angel, in apprehension so like a God; the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals." Vain boast! go paint the faculties of this paragon of animals, in the dungeons I have described; and when you have studied the institutions of Mahometan governors, sit down, if you can, with an exalted notion of human nature!

There was one thing I could not help remarking,—the ruling passion of the Mahometan character was preserved even in insanity. One man, who begged me to give him bread, spat on me when he got it; another, who seized on the piece of watermelon which the women brought him with all the eagerness of famine, abstained from eating it: hungry as he was, he preferred flinging it at a Christian's head, rather than satisfy his craving stomach. He concealed it for near a quarter of an hour, till I was opposite his window; he then thrust his naked arm through the bars, and threw it in my face. In spite of my entreating, he got the *courbash* round his uncovered shoulders.

But there was one old man who moved not when the food was distributing; and as I looked into the dark cell, destitute of everything, with neither straw nor carpet, nor clothing of any sort, I could barely distinguish an emaciated form, in a half recumbent position, lying on the bare earth, without a rag upon his body. He could not lie down altogether, for he was chained by the neck to the window; and, whether it was the pressure of the chain or the rattling of death in his throat, I knew not, but the noise

was that of a person in the last convulsions; and, on inquiry, I found he was dying. The smell of the apartment was most horrible: every species of filth had accumulated round the dying man; for, in all probability, he had been many days immoveable. I had only sufficient influence to prevail on the keeper to take off the chain. I gave some piastres to buy straw; but two days afterwards, when I sent the janissary to inquire about this poor wretch, he was dead, and there was no straw in the apartment. I observed a very decent looking Turk in one of the cells, who had been an officer in the Pacha's troops: he complained bitterly of hard usage; he said he was famished; some days he had only five paras worth of bread, or half a penny worth; and he talked altogether so rationally of his condition, that I expressed my wonder to the keeper that he was not suffered to go abroad. The keeper laughed at my ignorance: "You do not know," said he, "that when mad people appear most quiet, they are always plotting mischief." He illustrated his assertion by a story, which, if credible, certainly showed the necessity of confining lunatics, however mild, to their apartments at night. A black man, who followed the trade of a butcher, had been confined there many years ago; his madness was of so mild a character, that he was allowed the range of the house, with two or three others, whose derangement was attended with no violence. One night the black butcher secreted a knife; he induced another madman to enter his cell, prevailed on him to lie down, and cut his throat; he then cut him up into quarters, and distributed the joints about the room,

as he was in the habit of arranging the meat in his shop. He invited all the others to buy their meat at his stall; and, to those who were chained, he carried such portions as they desired. The keeper was disturbed with their rejoicings; it was the first full meal they had had for many a long day. On examining the cells, he found one man missing: he asked the black butcher if he had seen him, and he replied that he had just sold the last joint. "Since that time," said the keeper, "we look out better; otherwise they would eat one another every day." I endeavored to ascertain the causes of the madness of the present inmates; they were thirteen in number, and all males: four of them had gone mad from smoking *hashis*, an intoxicating production, being the small pistils of the flax plant; five of them had poison administered to them,—to two of them in the shape of invigorating medicines, composed of Spanish flies, and to the other three in coffee, drugged with deleterious ingredients; three were rendered insane by fanaticism; and one went mad after being bastinadoed.

There is no country where insanity is so frequent as in that country where intellect is most cultivated,—in England; and there is no nation where madness is so rare as in Turkey,* where the people, of all others in the world, think least. There is an Arab proverb which every unfortunate man applies to his calamity, and which preserves him from despair: "He who has health should hope; and he who hopes can never remain unhappy." The degree of suffer-

ing which disorders the intellect of an Englishman, only calls forth the philosophy of an Arab; and where the former cuts his throat, the latter contemplates his misery, and exclaims *Allah Karim*, "God is great." I saw an Arab surveying the ruins of his house at Rosetta, which had just fallen; and the only exclamation which escaped his lips, was *Allah Karim*, God is great. An Englishman, in the employment of Mr. Galloway, threw himself into the Nile; his companion besought the Arabs in the boat to endeavor to save the man; but the Arabs, with one accord, lifted up their eyes and exclaimed, "*Allah Karim*," and the unfortunate man was drowned. I saw an Arab Sheik, in Alexandria, follow the corpse of his only son, who died of the plague; and, as it was carried out of the house, he caused the bier to be set down, to have one more look at his lost child. I saw the features of the old man convulsed for a moment; but all he said was "*Allah Karim*!" and all the bystanders repeated the same. In short, the religion of the Turks tends much to resignation; as they believe no human foresight can prevent misfortune, they make a merit in supporting that misfortune with courage: but the Arabs, in this respect, carry their philosophy much farther than the Turks, and, indeed, surpass the latter in intelligence, morality, and gentleness of disposition. I never knew an instance of suicide either in Turkey or Egypt, and I never heard of a Turk or Arab going mad from desperation, arising from misfortunes.

Now the great cause of insanity in all countries, except Mahometan ones, is fanaticism; and one

* Fatuity is however frequent enough; but as fools are revered as saints, idio-cy is very often shammed.

would think, *a priori*, where religious zeal is so strong as in Turkey, that insanity would be most frequent; the reverse, however, is the fact. The reason is this;—their fanaticism is founded on essential doctrines of faith, which neither admit of doubt nor disputation: they all believe that they are certain of salvation, sooner or later; and this reflection soothes every mortal anxiety. But with us, fanaticism is altogether on a different basis, and insanity is consequently more prevalent than it formerly was in France; probably two-thirds of the insane in England are religiously mad. The report of the Cork Lunatic Asylum, published a few years ago in the *Edinburgh Review*, proved that madness was only prevalent in those districts where the ranters were most numerous. The physician of a lunatic asylum in Paris assured me, that, since the revolution, the greater number of lunatics were females, in the proportion of two women to one man; and the reason he gave for it was this:—Since the revolution, the churches are frequented only by women: for one man that you see in a church in Paris, you may count a dozen women. There the clergy, to preserve any part of their flock, are obliged to practise on the enthusiasm of the women; and, not content with making them religious, they render them devotees.

The poetry of religion, of which no church possesses more than the Catholic, is one of the adventurous aids of ecstasy which often elevates the female mind beyond the region of sober reason. In England, I repeat, fanaticism takes another turn: it has none of the poetry of continental en-

thusiasm, and none of the consoling security of Turkish fanaticism. It is mere prose—the madness of proselytism, without the inspiration of faith.

With us, the fanatic wavers with the wind of every doctrine; and while he works heaven and earth to gain his neighbor to his sect, his own bosom is distracted with a thousand doubts and scruples. His anxiety for his neighbor's soul undermines his own intellect at last; and thus fanaticism paves the road to Bedlam.

I endeavored to explain to the keeper of this wretched hospital the necessity for gentler usage and more humane treatment. I told him by such means many insane people were restored to reason; but he shook his head, and said it was impossible; nothing would do but the courbash; besides, the only object was confinement to prevent them from doing mischief; and *Malesh*, "what matter," whether they recovered or not?

Niebuhr mentions the *Mouritan* hospital for the sick and mad; but it is evident he did not visit it. He says, "the patients were provided with everything to soothe their distress, not excepting even music." Alas! they have not bread, much less, music.

II.

PHYSIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON SUCKLING.

MR. ROBERTS, an English Surgeon, has published some interesting remarks on the measure in which the mental peculiarities of a nurse are partaken by her suckling.

Were it perhaps more publicly known, says he, that man par-

takes of the peculiar genius and temper of the female by whose milk he is reared, ladies of rank and fashion would be more generally induced to suckle their own offspring. For those who have written upon the subject seem to have dwelt upon the evils which the contrary and prevailing practice is productive of, simply to the physical, with little or no reference to the moral and intellectual, part of our being, though the two be so intimately connected, that the one can never be at ease whilst the other is in any way afflicted; and as this truism forms the groundwork of these speculations, it is necessary, in order to show how our physical holds in subjection our moral nature, to make a few physiologico-metaphysical observations.

The nervous system consists of two great classes of nerves, the cerebro-spinal, proceeding from the brain and spinal cord, and those called the ganglionic, arising from the great sympathetic nerve. Both sets have their distinct offices and stimuli; the first transmit to the mind sensations from without, and so maintain our relations with external objects; the last regulate the immediate functions of life, whence spring those sensations which are the cause of all instinctive determinations. Thus we have two kinds of physical sensibility, divided into percipient and latent; the former producing its effects *with*, the latter *without*, a consciousness of these impressions; and these are the two grand sources of knowledge, viz., the external senses and the internal organs, or, in other words, reason and instinct. For the mind, or that divine ray infused into the body with the

breath of life, accommodates itself to the weakness and imperfections of the tenement it inhabits; all its endowments are gradually unfolded and developed, so as to assume a local habitation and a name, by the agencies of the two physical sensibilities. But the progress of reason is very slow, so that in infancy we are entirely guided by instinct, which we have shown to be an effect produced by the direct application of stimuli to the ganglionic nerves, or those which govern the functions of the vital organs, and convey the impressions there engendered to the mind. Now it is the predominant energy of any system of organs, whence these impressions issue, that establishes the temperament, and the temperament the specific character of man.

These facts being thus adjusted, we may readily conceive the process whereby the innate dispositions of a child become so perverted, by the stimulus of the milk of a woman of different age, temperament and habits from its mother, as to imbibe propensities directly at variance with those inherited from its parent, either towards virtue or towards vice. Does not every perturbation of mind, on the part of a nurse, so infect the milk as to produce a corresponding emotion in the child? as she is cheerful or sorrowful, the babe at her breast surely participates. Then if a child participates in the temporary feelings of excitement or depression of its real or foster parent, why not in time partake also of her ruling or predominant passions. No doubt it does; and several instances may be adduced wherein such changes have been

brought about, and not in men only, but in other creatures.

We read, in the *Spectator*, of a certain very worthy man, who, having been bred with the milk of a goat, was extremely shy and timid in public, but that, nevertheless, he had frequently an hour in private, when, giving loose to his goatish propensities, he would enjoy a few frisks and capers. It is reported of Caligula, that he did not inherit his cruel and murderous disposition from either father or mother, but that his nurse was of a barbarous savage temper. Tiberius' nurse was unhappily a little too fond of tippling, and the Emperor proved a notorious drunkard. A bitch suckled a pig, which, when grown, would hunt as well as an ordinary hound; and the philosophical Phæorinus observes that, if a lamb be reared with goat's milk, or a kid with that of an ewe, the wool of the one will become hard, and the hair of the other soft. Further we may state, that, in the purest ages of Greece and Rome, this influence of the nurse in instilling her own good and bad qualities into the infant she suckled, was no less known than guarded against; and we find it particularly remarked, that, when Rome flourished as a commonwealth, "children were not suckled by mercenary nurses, but by the chaste mothers that bore them;" thus were the Gracchi reared by their mother Cornelia, and Augustus by his mother Attia. From all which we are led to infer, that man materially participates in the nature and inclinations of her from whose milk the "wheel at the cistern" receives its earliest impulse.

And really, when we consider the strange effects which sudden

frights or longings have upon the organization of an infant in the womb, it does not appear unreasonable to suppose that the ordinary way of thinking of the mother should also have some effect upon the temper of what she bears about her for a period of nine months. Now these physical relations, though loosened, are by no means torn asunder at the time of birth, but, as before, the child lives upon the substance of its mother, who, moreover, continues to cherish it with the same warmth to which it was exposed when a part of herself. And though these material duties be declined by the mother, the argument holds good, for a nurse soon contracts the instinctive solicitude of a parent for the infant brought up at her breast; her hopes and her fears are centred in its well being: and if she be a woman of an agreeable temper, in the habit of indulging such sentiments only as are cheerful and happy, the milk secreted is of a more healthy quality, and abounds in the elements of truly honest feelings, which, being infused into the temperature of the child, leave a tincture behind which no future education can wholly eradicate. And hence, under some circumstances, some nurses deserve a preference; for a mother may be so cruel, drunken, or otherwise ill disposed, as to render it desirable to correct and qualify the hereditary temperament of her offspring, so as to improve the breed as much as possible.

III.

MR. GERVIS'S CASE OF ENLARGEMENT
AROUND THE HIP JOINT.

MARY REED, a married woman, aged 23, living in Tiverton, applied to me, about four months since, with an immense swelling around the left hip, and extending considerably down the thigh. The breadth of the tumor was about fourteen inches; the length, from the back part of the ileum to the lower part of the sacrum, proportionally large. I learnt, from her own account, that the tumor had existed nearly two years, and she supposed had originated from a violent cold. On examining the spine, I found a projection of the spinous processes of the lumbar vertebræ; which, on inquiry, I found had proceeded from a fall or wrench when a child. There was no pain produced on pressure; but the pain which she felt at times from the tumor was excessive. Her constitution was much impaired, and her loss of appetite tended to keep her in a state of debility. The tumor was rather soft, yielding in some degree to the pressure of the hand, and conveying the sensation of a fluid deeply seated. I considered this a fair opportunity for putting Mr. Scott's practice into effect, which I had seen adopted at the London hospital when a student there, by the frequent application of the Ung. Hydr. Comp., and by repeated bandaging. The first application gave her much relief from the pain, and I found that, on every successive application, the tumor gradually diminished. The tumor is now scarcely apparent, nor is there much perceptible difference between one side and the other. The application is now omitted, as she walks per-

fectly well, and without the least deformity in her person, which had previously existed. Her general health is quite established, and the pain she once so much complained of has left her. The efficacy of this plan of treatment is beyond a doubt in all chronic tumors about the neck, the knee-joint, and other parts of the body. I have succeeded in many cases, since I have been here, with the same mode of treatment, and can therefore speak of the value of this plan so ably persevered in by Mr. Scott.

IV.

CASE OF OBSTINATE CONSTIPATION
DURING PREGNANCY, BY MESSRS
TAYNTON AND WILLIAMS, SURGEONS.

THE details of the following, as of the preceding case, were published in a late number of the London Medical Gazette.

Saturday, Feb. 6th.—We were called to visit Mary Waite, aged about 35, who had borne several children, and was then in the fifth month of pregnancy. She complained of severe pain in the bowels, but there was not any tenderness; the pulse natural, the skin cool. She said she had a motion on Friday morning. As there was a disposition to sickness, some pills, with calomel and cathartic extract, were prescribed for her.

7th.—The bowels had not been moved; no tenderness of the abdomen; pulse 80, tongue moist, skin not hot. As the sickness was much increased, small doses of a solution of Epsom salts were given every half hour. Injections of warm water and salt were carefully thrown up by means of Read's syringe. In the evening,

three grains of calomel were given every four hours; the injections and Epsom salts continued; fomentations also were frequently applied.

8th.—The vomiting was excessive; great quantities were suddenly discharged from the stomach, similar to what is brought up in cases of strangulated hernia, possessing the same smell, but not quite so dark colored. There was now considerable tumefaction of the abdomen, but with very little tenderness; pulse under 90, tongue moist, countenance tranquil. The calomel and sulphate of magnesia continued. In the evening, two pills, each containing one drop of croton oil, were given at an interval of two hours. Injections with turpentine.

9th.—Vomiting very violent, with severe pain in the epigastric region. The abdomen greatly distended, but not tender; pulse quicker, tongue not dry. Two more pills with croton oil; sulphate of magnesia in small doses; injections occasionally.

10th.—Vomiting the same in color and smell; prodigious distension of the abdomen; pulse very frequent; anxiety of countenance. Effervescing draughts to be given very frequently; and pills with scammony two grains, calomel two grains, gamboge one grain, every third hour.

11th.—Every symptom aggravated. The same medicines continued.

12th.—Constant vomiting; pulse very quick and feeble; great prostration of strength. Gave her ammonia with camphor; continued the pills with gamboge, &c. The abdomen enormously swelled.

13th.—Great debility; pulse very small and quick. She expressed a wish for bottled porter, which was given her. She drank it eagerly, and it appeared to afford immediate relief. She continued to take some frequently, and all sickness ceased from that time. She also had arrowroot, with brandy, strong broth, and cordial medicines, with full doses of ammonia. In the evening she passed three loose motions, some small portions of hardened feces having previously come away with an injection.

14th.—In the morning, much better in every respect. The swelling abated; she had several loose motions. At eight in the evening she miscarried: the fœtus appeared to be about the fourth month.

From this time she recovered without a recurrence of one untoward symptom. The bowels have acted daily without the aid of any medicine.

The vomiting of such prodigious quantities of fluid, which had the smell and appearance of feculent matter, the very great enlargement of the abdomen, and ultimate recovery, in this case, appear to us so uncommon, as to be deserving of notice.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1830.

THE VALUE OF CRITICISM.

FEW authors come before the public without casting a thought forward to their probable reception by the re-

viewers; and the journals, for a year after, are anticipated with more than ordinary impatience. If passed by unnoticed, the pride of every writer

is wounded; but severe criticism affects different individuals in a very different way. Some are entirely discouraged, and resolve never again to attempt the difficult task of an author;—others reply, like Spurzheim, in grave argument;—whilst still others, like Byron, are waked to severe response, and expend their resentment in satire and ridicule. But the majority, perhaps, of modern writers, take such remarks all in good part, and resolve to turn them to good account in the next edition—nothing doubting but a second will soon be in demand. These, though the most goodnatured, have by no means chosen for themselves the easiest alternative.

In his preface to "The Pioneers," Cooper, the novelist, thus speaks of the reception his former writings had met with among the reviewers:—"Just as I have made up my mind to adopt the very sagacious hints of a learned Reviewer, a pamphlet is put into my hands, containing the remarks of another, who condemns all that his rival praises, and praises all that his rival condemns. There I am, left like an ass between two cocks of hay; so that I have determined to relinquish my animate nature, and remain stationary, like a cock of hay between two asses."

Mr. Cooper is not the only author who has found himself in this predicament; and among the host who are with him, we find our friend the editor of "Collin's Manual," a copy of which, with a "superior Stethoscope," is sold almost every day at the medical bookstore of Carter & Hendee. The January

number of the North American Medical and Surgical Journal, after commenting rather severely on this edition of the Manual, remarks—

"Were we disposed to further criticism, we should comment upon the Introduction, the 'entirely new Introduction; which is intended to embrace the amount of all that is important in the prefaces alluded to,' (of those, namely, 'which encumber the last edition'), 'as well as that which is contained in various abstracts and reviews which have appeared of treatises upon the different methods of investigating thoracic diseases, and in such other works which are not generally before the country.' Rather magnificent, we should think, to be achieved in ten small 12mo pages of large type. What principally attracts our attention in this abstract, which constitutes nearly the whole of the additional matter furnished by the fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, is the tone of exclusively local feeling and exclusively local knowledge which it betrays. 'In this country, the stethoscope,' he says, 'still remains a novelty.' Be it known to our Salem friend, that the stethoscope was introduced into Philadelphia within somewhere about a year of its first publication, and has been used here, since that time, without any interruption; inasmuch that some physicians in this city have been thought to gain reputation thereby. The editor seems to forget that there exist other States in this renowned Union than those east of the Hudson; he writes only for 'a New England climate' and 'the New England practitioner.' Against this exclusiveness, which would erect a sort of provincial tribunal in literature, we enter our protest," &c.*

In the notes to the New York

* See Boston Med. and Surg. Journal for March 2d, in which is a reply to these strictures.

edition, just published, of Gregory's Elements of Practice, we find the aforesaid Manual and its introduction alluded to in the following language :

" I conceive that the profession in the United States is under special obligations to Dr. A. L. Peirson, of Salem, Mass., for the laudable and successful attempt he has made to promote and diffuse a knowledge of this all-important subject, by his edition of Collin's valuable 'Manual for the use of the Stethoscope,' and by the very pertinent and lucid introductory remarks with which he has accompanied it."

Dr. Peirson cannot do better than adopt the resolution of the American Sir Walter. It is well for an author to read all the critiques of his works, for the sake of gratifying a very natural curiosity ; but the wisest are those who are neither elated by praise, discouraged by censure, nor drawn, by the whims of a reviewer, from a course which has approved itself, after reflection, to their own better judgment.

THE MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL.

THE following note, addressed to the Editor of this Journal, will afford our readers further light respecting the admission of *Incurables* into the Hospital. For our own part, we cannot conceive why any one should suppose it an act of *inhumanity* to reject patients of this description. The reception of them into an Institution designed for the cure of diseases which are within the power of medical and surgical skill, would be the surest of all modes of defeating the objects of such an establishment.

Dear Sir,—As it is desirable the profession should have a full under-

standing of the rules of the Hospital respecting the admission of the incurable, will you have the goodness to add to the account given by Dr. Wyman in the last number of your Journal, the following statement, which refers particularly to the Hospital in this city.

There is a certain number of free beds, as they are termed, maintained in this Hospital, partly by the funds of the Institution, and partly by the liberal contribution of gentlemen of the city. Persons who are unable to pay their board, are received on these free beds. It is obvious, however, that, if incurable patients were received or retained on them, they would soon become filled with such patients. Thus the purposes of the Institution would be defeated ; and, so far as these free beds would go, the Hospital would become an asylum for the sick poor, like an almshouse, instead of being a place for the relief of disease. In this case, one patient would occupy a free bed from six to twelve months. On the other hand, if those only should be received and retained whom there was some chance of relieving, from ten to twelve patients would have the benefit of a single bed in the course of a year.

That this is a true view of the matter, has been proved by experience at our hospital. Influenced by it, the Trustees have directed, as a general rule, that patients who are evidently incurable should not be admitted to the use of the free beds ; and that patients on them, when found incurable, should be discharged, when this could be done consistently with a regard to humanity.

But, in regard to those patients who pay their board, the same rule does not apply. Such patients are not fond of entering the hospital, nor of remaining there, as paupers would be, if there is not some chance of relief. Should it happen otherwise, and should incurables of this class fill the house so as to exclude those

who are curable, it would no doubt be necessary to remedy the evil by discharging the incurable. But, in fact, no such difficulty ever has occurred. Accordingly, we have never found it necessary to adopt the rule, with patients of this class, which it has been necessary to adopt in order to prevent our *free* beds from being occupied by incurables.

I have troubled you with a statement not only of our rules, but of reasons for them, that you may not consider the regulation respecting free beds as deficient in regard to humanity. The truth is, that its design and its operation is to give the greatest amount of relief to the sick poor of which the institution is capable.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, respectfully,

J. JACKSON, *Attending Phys.*
Mass. Gen. Hospital.

Boston, April 27, 1830.

NEW CURE FOR PHTHISIS.

WE presented to our readers, not long since, a copious abstract of certain articles published by Dr. Parrish, of Philadelphia, setting forth the advantages to be derived from free exposure to the open air in chronic disease of the lungs. To this idea, though somewhat at variance with received notions on the subject, we found no great difficulty in reconciling ourselves; but a plan has been recently put in practice by an English practitioner, the success of which is not so easy to account for upon established principles of pathology. It consists in the repeated affusion of the surface of the chest with a cold lotion, consisting of alcohol and water, in the proportion of one part to seven, with the addition of a small quantity of the aromatic spirit of ammonia. The

first case in which the remedy is stated to have been used, was that of a young lady who had suffered with a troublesome cough, without a day's intermission, for two years. The lotion was applied by means of several folds of linen carried across the upper part of the chest. From that day the cough abated, and a cure was effected at the end of a month.

The next case is that of a gentleman who had chronic catarrh, attended with some pleuritic affection. The cure was completed in a month.—The next patient was a young lady who had been partially relieved by treatment, but in whom there remained a sense of tightness and cough. The relief gained from the lotion, in this case, was sufficient to induce her to make the use of it constant and habitual.—The next was a clergyman seriously threatened with phthisis, in whom the lotion, with regulated diet, removed most of the symptoms.—The remedy was subsequently tried in five other cases of protracted cough, and in all with equal success.

That an amount of experience equal to that above mentioned is far from sufficient to establish the character of a remedy, is certainly true; and it is very possible that, in all the cases recorded, the event might have been equally favorable if the application had been omitted. But it is something to have shown that, in chronic pulmonary inflammation, the direct application of cold to the surface may be made with impunity; and, in this view, we are disposed to regard the cases alluded to with some

degree of interest. So far as the facts contained in them justify any inference, they will be considered as confirming the opinions already advanced by Dr. Parrish.

TRANSFUSION.

DR. DIEFFENBACH, of Berlin, has performed numerous experiments upon animals, from which he obtains the following conclusions:—

1. That an animal, bled to apparent death, may be brought back to life by the blood of another animal of the same species, and afterwards continue to do well.

2. Blood derived from an animal of different species may produce signs of life, but these are not permanent.

3. If transfusion be performed with the blood of an animal very dissimilar to the one operated on, however small the quantity, the latter will be destroyed. This result occurred when human blood, or that of a calf, was injected into a cat; more slowly when that of a dog or a rabbit was transferred to the veins of the same animal.

4. Mammiferous animals are less sensible to the noxious influence of the blood of birds or coldblooded animals, if they have previously been bled.

5. Birds are always killed by the blood of the mammifera or fishes, and exhibit, in these cases, the symptoms produced by narcotic poisons.

6. Whenever, after the injection of the noxious blood, an animal has copious evacuations, by urine, stool or vomiting, the ill effects of the operation are lessened by this circumstance.

7. Blood, when exposed to the air, does not lose its reviving properties, until decomposition commences. Once decomposed, it produces the same effects as any other putrefying animal substance.

8. Age, sex, and other circumstances or states of the constitution, exercise little or no influence on the effect of transfusion.

9. Diseases are not always communicated by transfusion.

10. Venous blood answers best for this operation.

11. Transfusion is always attended with danger, although the animals are of the same species; its employment as a remedial measure, therefore, is suited only to desperate cases, where all other means are inadequate to preserve life; and none except human blood ought ever to be used in these cases.

NEW APPLICATION OF BELLADONNA.

OF the large class of medicines known by the names of antispasmodics, anodynes, &c., it is remarkable how few are known to produce any of their effects by local applications. A priori, there would seem to be no sufficient reason why pain, existing in the subcutaneous or muscular tissue, should not be relieved as effectually and more speedily by applications made to the skin covering the part, than by similar substances introduced into the stomach; yet the number of acknowledged instances in which such an effect has followed, are certainly very few. We are not without suspicion that regular practitioners have distrusted too much the possibility of an effect

of this kind. We are very much disposed to ridicule the notion of bone salves and bone ointments; but applications of this sort have acquired a certain degree of reputation among the people, and how are we prepared to say that this faith is utterly groundless? The most successful bonesetters make, as is well known, great use of narcotic substances externally, before they attempt to reduce a dislocation, avowedly with the design of relaxing the muscles. That their practice is often successful, is undoubtedly true; and perhaps it is too much to decide, without careful examination, as to the absurdity of the theory on which it is founded. We have in our possession a formula for one of these bone salves, which, however bare of classical or botanical allusion, and perverse in the matter of orthography, yet contains, within the list of its fourteen articles, many which have an established reputation as powerful antispasmodics. Now the selection of these articles is an argument in favor of the view in which they are used; for if the practice was a mere deception, the substances employed might as well be inert as potent.

The nearest approach which has been made to this kind of practice by regular physicians, has, we believe, consisted in the adoption of endermic medication, that is, in applying certain substances possessing anodyne properties to the denuded cutis. In this way the acetate of morphia has been applied to the surface of the chest for the cure of whooping cough; and the practice

seemed to be attended with considerable advantage. The effect of belladonna on the muscular structure of the iris has generally been considered as peculiar, and as having nothing strictly analogous to it within the compass of our knowledge of the operation of medical agents. From the following case, it would appear that the same article had been found to exhibit elsewhere, and through the medium of the mucous tissue, a somewhat similar influence. The case occurred recently in one of the London hospitals.

John Schaaff, æt. 61, a native of Saxony, residing in London, and where, for the last thirty years, he has been employed as a coppersmith and brazier, was admitted into Isaac's ward with retention of urine. His health has been generally pretty good; occasionally, however, he has been affected by colic. Has had stricture in the urethra for two years, and has been obliged at times to apply to a medical man, for the purpose of having his urine drawn off by a catheter.

The man came to the hospital about three o'clock on Sunday morning (Feb. 24), when the dresser found it impossible to introduce a catheter into the bladder, some blood following every attempt. After some time, however, he succeeded in passing a small-sized conical bougie, and some urine flowed, which greatly relieved the patient. The man refused to have anything more done for him at that time, and he returned home to his bed.

At ten, A.M., of the same day, he returned, laboring under the like distress as at his first application; after some trouble, a bougie was passed into the bladder, and a few ounces of urine followed, on its being withdrawn. The stricture is situated about three inches from the orifice

of the urethra. The man was now put into the warm bath, and a dose of castor oil given him. Mr. Tyrrell ordered him to take Tinct. Ferri Muriat. M. xv. ; Tinct. Opii M. v. 2dis horis. A bougie, rubbed over with belladonna and oil, to be passed into the urethra. Soon after the man came from the bath, this was tried, and, after two or three attempts, the bougie (which was larger than those used before) readily passed the stricture, and the bladder was emptied of its contents. Poppy fomentation to be applied to the lower part of the abdomen and penis. About an hour after, another bougie was passed, and kept in the urethra two hours.

On the following day, a bougie (conical-pointed) was introduced two or three times, by which the stricture was sufficiently dilated to allow the urine to pass pretty freely.

The man was allowed to remain without any farther regard to the stricture for a few days, for the purpose of allaying a considerable tumefaction of the penis; and, on this subsiding, a bougie simply oiled could not be introduced beyond the stricture, and belladonna was again resorted to, by which the irritability of the stricture seemed to be allayed, and the bougie passed into the bladder.

The patient now passes his urine whenever he feels a desire, and the present treatment adopted is, merely attending to the secretions of the alimentary canal, and the introduction of a bougie daily.

CUJUM PECUS?

MANY of our readers have doubtless seen Dr. Mott's account of an operation for immobility of the lower jaw, published in the 9th No. of the Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, with a plate representing the instrument used by him. This history, with a fac simile of the plate, was copied into the London Medical Gazette, as a case of interest to the profession in

other countries. The last No. of that Gazette contains the following letter:

To the Editor of the London Medical Gazette.

2, Alfred Street, Bath, 1830.

Sir,—In reading Dr. Mott's case of immobility of the jaw (successfully treated), I find the following paragraph:—

"As no force which I could exert would enable me to open the mouth, I was prepared to apply the mechanical principle of the screw and lever. For this purpose we *had prepared* an instrument composed of two steel plates," &c.

If I rightly understand the New York Doctor, he wishes it to be understood that he *invented* the instrument of which he gives a drawing (in your February number, 1830), and with which he treated the case successfully. I have not the least desire to detract from the merit of any gentleman's inventive powers, but I cannot resist sending you what I consider the original of *his invention*, and I can pledge myself it has been in my possession thirty years, and I know not how long before that period in the possession of my late master, Dr. Mingay, of Thetford, Norfolk (England), and his father.

I shall be obliged by your returning the instrument at your earliest convenience; and, apologising for this trouble, I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. JAS. LONG.

[The drawing of the instrument used by Dr. Mott (see Gazette, No. 117) is an exact representation of that sent to us by our Bath correspondent.—*Editor Gazette.*]

Extract of Asparagus.—An extract made by evaporating a strong decoction of this grass, is said to be a powerful diuretic, and a valuable remedy in cases of dropsy. We embrace the present season to communicate the saying, in order that those of our readers whose happiness it is to have their residence

amid the fascinating scenes of rural life, may make the experiment for themselves.

It was once thought, by Cullen and others, that, although asparagus gave a peculiar odor to the urine, it did not increase its quantity or change its qualities; but recent observation seems not to have confirmed this opinion.

M. Broussais proposes the use of asparagus, which is undoubtedly sedative and perfectly inoffensive to the stomach, as a substitute for digitalis and prussic acid—medicines which, with the property of weakening the action of the heart, have also that of producing gastric irritation.

If a patient, suffering from hypertrophy and excessive action of the heart, eat asparagus, M. Broussais assures us he will find relief; and if the remedy is discontinued, the habitual symptoms will return. Syrup of the green ends of asparagus, like the plant itself, has this power of diminishing the action of the heart, without annoying the stomach, and may be made for use when the grass is out of season. A physician, whom M. Broussais does not name, but to whom he is indebted for this discovery, collected many cases in support of these statements; and the Professor of Val-de-Grace declares that it is confirmed by the result of his own experience.

Hemorrhage restrained by Alcohol.—A very obstinate case is related, in a foreign work, of hemorrhage after the extraction of a tooth. It occurred in an individual who, with all his family, exhibited

always a remarkable tendency to hemorrhage. After using all the remedies he could call to mind, the practitioner was considering the expediency of tying the carotid, when it occurred to him that he had witnessed good results, in like cases, from alcohol applied to the part. He accordingly applied pledgets of cotton wool dipped in the strongest alcohol, and with entire success. The application was often repeated for several days.

Casey's Apparatus.—We perceive that this gentleman is taking the most direct and dignified course to make known the true merits of his "dormant balance." It has been presented to the French Institute by Magendie, and a committee on the subject will shortly report their opinion of its title to originality of invention, and to confidence as a means of curing lateral curvatures of the spine. The result of these inquiries we shall not fail to notice.

Dr. JAMES C. HALL, of Washington, has been appointed Professor of Surgery in Columbia College, D.C. in place of Dr. Stoughton, resigned.

Dr. JOHN GODMAN.—It is our melancholy duty to record the death of this distinguished anatomist and scholar. He died at Philadelphia, on the 17th of the last month, at the early age of 32 years.

☞ We must defer till next week some remarks we intended to have offered today, on the liability of Physicians to do military duty.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, ENDING APRIL 9.

Date.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.
April 9.	F.	2 yrs	convulsions		M.	40 yrs	unknown
	F.	83	old age		M.	25	do.
10.	M.	3	quinsy	14.	F.	6 mo	convulsions
	M.	83	old age		M.	43 yrs	consumption
11.	M.	21 mo	croup		M.	64	delirium
	M.	19 yrs	consumption		M.	55	dropsy on the heart
	M.	12 mo	lung fever	15.	M.	44	consumption
12.	M.	27 yrs	consumption		M.	72	old age
	F.	30	childbed		F.	29	consumption
13.	M.	3	dropsy on the brain				

Males, 14.—Females, 5. Total, 19.

ADVERTISEMENT.

**HALLER'S ELEMENTS OF
PHYSIOLOGY.**

FOR sale—Haller's Elements of Physiology, complete in eight volumes 4to., elegantly bound in calf. Inquire at Cottons and Barnard's, No. 184 Washington Street.

May 4.

SUPERIOR STETHOSCOPE.

CARTER & HENDEE have constantly on hand, Stethoscopes of the most approved form, manufactured by George Wheelwright.

They also publish a Manual for the Use of the Stethoscope. A short Treatise on the different Methods of investigating the Diseases of the Chest. Translated from the French of M. Collin by W. N. Ryland, M.D., from the third London edition: with plates and an explanatory introduction, by a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

April 6.

MEMORIA MEDICA.

THIS day published by CARTER & HENDEE, corner of Washington and School Streets, Memoria Medica,—a Medical Common-place Book,—with an alphabetical Index of the most common terms occurring in practice. Carefully selected and arranged by a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

From Dr. James Jackson, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Harvard University.

Gentlemen,—I have examined the "Memoria Medica" which you sent to me. I think the plan of it very excellent, and that it will be found highly useful to practitioners and students of medicine. I have never believed that a voluminous common-place book can be very beneficial to any man, unless he means to become an author. But on the other hand, every one will find an advantage in keeping a common-place book in which he may notice the detached facts which come under his notice, and which are likely soon to be lost from his memory. The book you have prepared will be found well adapted for this purpose by medical men, and will be more likely to be used

by those who procure it than a common blank book, because all the labor of arrangement is saved.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JAMES JACKSON.

From Dr. Walter Channing, Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence in Harvard University.

I have examined the Medical Common-place Book which was left with your note this evening, and with pleasure offer you my thanks for the publication of so useful a volume. Every practitioner of medicine will agree with the remarks in the preface on the inconveniences and absolute loss of what is very useful, which result from depending solely on the memory. Not unfrequently it happens that some particular prescription is peculiarly suited to an individual. Some time passes, and an occasion again arises in which we believe that the same medicine might be equally beneficial; what it was, however, has wholly escaped us; and though something else may be equally useful, still some regret may be felt, at least by the patient, that what has been found beneficial cannot again be at once resorted to. Some object to an artificial method of preserving, for such and other uses, what may be safely trusted to the memory, if that faculty be faithfully cultivated. I am willing to admit that there is force in this objection; but it is a simple question of fact only we have to consider. If it be true that there is much lost to the individual, and certainly much more to the profession, by trusting entirely to the memory, the occasional use of the Common-place Book for the preservation of what is truly valuable, has all the recommendation it needs. For such purposes, viz., for the registering of cases the most rare, and the frequent, if important, epidemics, prescriptions, &c., your *Memoria Medica* promises to be very useful; and for these it well deserves to be recommended to physicians. Students attending hospital practice will find it very valuable. Its tables of names are very full, and under references very easy. I cannot but hope it will get into general use.

Yours, &c., W. CHANNING.
Dec. 3.

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